

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks presented below.

Pursuant to the instant RCE, please enter the following Amendments and Remarks in the above-referenced application to advance the prosecution of the instant application. Pursuant to the non-compliant response notice dated December 2, 2008 with regard to the instant Preliminary Amendment, upon examination of the referenced patent application, please consider the below Remarks. Herewith Claims 1-14 and 35-36 which were withdrawn from consideration as non-elected are indicated as cancelled; please cancel Claims 1-14 and 35-36 without prejudice. As discussed herein, Applicants' amendments of independent claims as set forth are presented according to subject matter believed allowable, and which patentably define over the prior art and place the Claims in condition for allowance; Applicants' instant preliminary amendment also is intended to provide clarification and present the pending claims, as amended, for reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims 15, 17-34 and 37. Certain pending claims stand rejected under 35 USC 101 as non-statutory subject matter, and while Applicants do not acquiesce Applicants wish to point out to claims amendments presented reciting statutory subject matter of such structure or machine, or visually represented transformation of data presented in physical form considered statutory under 35 USC 101 under In Re Bilski, as recited in presently pending claim sets.

The present invention provides for a virtual private supply chain and viewing supply chain data using, for example, a generic Internet based viewing engine. Moreover, the viewing prevents a supply chain member from viewing data originating from the one or more other supply chain member of the two or more supply chain members, achieving supply chain transparency which enables enterprises to securely share order and inventory information among trading partners. A virtual private supply chain (VPSC) is provided to facilitate collaborative, real-time exchange of supply chain data between multiple enterprises, which in turn facilitates reducing complexity and/or

delays in a supply chain processing. A VPSC is a conduit through which supply chain data can flow in a timely, secure, consistent manner. Rather than a supply chain member having to maintain possibly distinct protocols, paperwork and records for communication with other members of a supply chain, by depositing selected data into a central supply chain data store, a supply chain member can maintain one protocol for communication with the central data store, thereby reducing complexity and/or delays in supply chain processing. The data to be deposited into the central data store may include purchase order information, sales order information, warehouse order information, shipment information and inventory information. As inventory moves across a multi-enterprise supply chain, the present invention facilitates enterprises viewing information relevant to the deposited items and the inventory to which they relate, regardless of the source of information. Specification, page 12, lines 5-20.

Figure 4 illustrates a system 400 for providing a virtual private supply chain, which includes a common supply chain data store 430 into which one or more supply chain members 420₁ through 420_N deposit supply chain information (e.g. inventory positions, production capacity, purchase orders, sales orders, warehouse orders, etc.). Data may be extracted (e.g. pushed, pulled) from the supply chain members and placed into the common supply chain data store 430, and thereafter the common supply chain data store 430 and/or related processes do not need to reach through security measures (e.g. firewalls) associated with the individual supply chain member data stores seeking data. This extraction of data may occur at any desired time including, but not limited to, on a periodic basis, on a manual trigger and on a data update trigger. The common supply chain data store 430 and/or associated processes can transform the supply chain data, which may be in inconsistent formats, to one or more common formats based on one or more common schema. Furthermore, the common supply chain data store 430 and/or associated processes can validate the supply chain data before loading it into the common supply chain data store 430. Further still, the common supply chain data store 430 and/or associated processes can determine relationships between supply chain member data and can control or regulate access to such related data. Specification page 10, lines 8-29. A supply chain data store that stores supply chain data in one or more common schemas and which also stores metadata (data about data) is further described at various points in the specification (e.g. data store 430 of Figure 4, page 10 at line 8, data store 650 of Figure 6, page 13 at lines 26-31, step 1760 of Figure 17, page 31 at lines 22-23, step 1840 of Figure 18, page 32 at lines 15-22).

Figure 6 illustrates an architecture 600 that may be employed in a VPSC that includes a hub with a central VPSC application 640. The hub 640 receives transmissions from supply chain members 610, 620 and 630, decodes the transmissions, and then deposits data in the data store 650. Thus, hub and central VPSC application 640 is one example of a data acceptor (step 1720 of Figure 17, page 31 at lines 4-8, step 1810 of Figure 18, page 32 at lines 8-10) that receives one or more supply chain data items from one or more supply chain members for storage in the data store.

Figure 1 illustrates a system 100 that includes a data store 110 where data 112 and metadata 114 associated with the data 112 are stored. System 100 also includes a generic Internet based display engine 120 that facilitates providing a metadata driven display 130 that displays data pursuant to metadata concerning what data should be displayed and how that data should be displayed or formatted. Figure 11 shows an example of a layout 1100 for a user interface provided by the engine 120 in the context of the one-line-per-transaction display presented in Figure 11 of the described embodiment. See specification at pages 7-8 and pages 20-29. See also step 1780 of Figure 17, page 31, step 1860 of Figure 18, and page 32.

Thus, the engine 120 provides one example of a data accessor that selectively presents one or more supply chain data items stored in the supply chain data store to one or more viewing supply chain members. In Figure 17, step 1780 says: “Selectively permit access based on ownership of supply chain data and/or relationships.” Figure 11, at 1100, illustrates the view that is presented to supply chain members. The view is described in the application from page 20, lines 15 to 26. Views are presented “selectively”, for example, with respect to security – row level security, preventing supply chain member A from viewing a row of data relating to transactions between supply chain members B and C, for example; and “menu level” security, limiting what menus a particular user can see. See application, page 29, line 24 to page 30, line 15. In Figure 17, step 1730 says: “Establish access permissions for the supply chain data.” Page 29, lines 24-31 read as follows: “Figure 15 is an example of a schema associated with VPSC security. ... There are multiple enterprises involved in processing associated with the present invention and thus the present invention facilitates preventing users of one enterprise from seeing data from other enterprise[s]. The schema illustrates the entities that support supply chain row level security Enterprises can grant access levels including, but not limited to full access or related data only access to other enterprises.”

In the example of Figure 1, the data 112 is supply chain data and the metadata 114 includes metadata concerning query criteria, view headings, additional information links, view results, personalization parameters, display content, display layout, and display format.

For example, the common supply chain data store 430 of Figure 4 and/or associated processes can determine relationships between supply chain member data and control access to such related data. For example, a purchase order from a first supply chain member may be related to inventory position information from a second supply chain member and a sales order from that same second supply chain member. Thus, in addition to the first supply chain member being able to view the first member's own data stored in the common supply chain data store 430, the first supply chain member may also be able to view related data (e.g. inventory position, sales order, and shipping information) given proper access permissions by other members. Specification page 10 at lines 18-25.

Further, the VPSC application of hub 640 of Figure 6 may establish ownership identifiers for received data items, establish access permissions for the received data items, and establish relationships between received data items. Specification page 13 at lines 26-31. See also step 1770 of Figure 17, page 31, lines 24-28, step 1860 of Figure 18, page 32, lines 23-29.

Thus, the common supply chain data store 430 of Figure 4 and/or associated processes as well as the VPSC application of the hub 640 shown in Figure 6 provide an example of a component that establishes one or more relationships within the supply chain data store between a first supply chain data item originating from a first supply chain member and one or more second supply chain items originating from one or more second supply chain members, such as sales from the first member to the second members.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection over Notani should be withdrawn because Notani does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of applicants' inventions as claimed. Notani teaches workflows that are used to manipulate data as it is transmitted between two trading partners. These workflows are code that are contained and run within a Global Collaboration Manager, which is outside of the data store. Notani

is silent regarding establishing one or more relationships within the supply chain data store between a first supply chain data item originating from a first supply chain member and one or more second supply chain data items originating from one or more second supply chain members. There is no mention in the Notani patent of separating data rows, and there is mention of attaching individual permissibility to different data elements. The prior art does not provide “selectively permitting access to the ... supply chain data based on row-level security applied to the ... supply chain data” anywhere in the Natoni patent.

Accordingly, Appellants respectfully submit that Notani fails to teach or suggest all limitations of Appellants’ invention as recited in independent claims 15, 31-33, and 37 and in dependent claim 17 (and in all the claims that depend from these claims), and thus fails to anticipate the subject claimed invention. Therefore, it is readily apparent that this rejection should be withdrawn and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 15, 17-34 and 37.

If the Examiner would like to discuss Applicant’s invention prior to issuing a further action, the Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned attorney.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request consideration of and respectfully requests allowance of pending claims 15, 17-34 and 37.

Respectfully submitted,

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